

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /142 W

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P R 291350Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3016

INFO USINT ALGIERS 2238

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4131

LONDON FOR FBIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MO

SUBJ: EXECUTIONS AND RELEASES

REFS: RABAT 0235 AND 4793 NOVEMBER 15, 1973

1. SPANISH RADIO, MONITORED HERE AUG 28, REPORTED THAT SIX PERSONS HAD BEEN EXECUTED IN MOROCCO FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE. LEADING ISTIQLAL FIGURE, WHO HAS FREQUENTLY SERVED AS DEFENSE LAWYER IN POLITICAL TRIALS HERE, CONFIRMED THAT EXECUTIONS DID TAKE PLACE BUT GAVE FIGURE AS SEVEN RATHER THAN SIX. ISTIQLAL SOURCE SAID THAT EXECUTIONS HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED LOCALLY BUT HAD BEEN REPORTED BY FOREIGN NEWS SERVICES.

2. IN JANUARY 1974, KENITRA MILITARY TRIBUNAL RETRIED, ON PROSECUTION APPEAL, THIRTEEN PERSONS IT HAD ORIGINALLY SENTENCED TO PRISON TERMS IN AUG 1973. IT RAISED SENTENCE OF SIX OF THESE
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PERSONS TO DEATH, AND WE BELIEVE YESTERDAY'S SPANISH RADIO

REPORT CONCERNED THESE SIX. FOUR OF SIX WERE INVOLVED IN MARCH 1973 DISORDERS IN MIDDLE ATLAS AND OTHER TWO WITH CASABLANCA TERRORIST CELL. ONE OF LATTER TWO TERMED HIMSELF UNFP MEMBER. FURTHER, OF SIXTEEN PERSONS SENTENCED TO DEATH BY KENITRA TRIBUNAL IN AUGUST, ONE WAS NOT EXECUTED BECAUSE HE AGREED TO PROVIDE FURTHER EVIDENCE AGAINST HIS FELLOW PRISONERS. HE IS PROBABLY SEVENTH PERSON EXECUTED. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE WERE NO OTHER PERSONS BEING HELD HERE UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH FOR POLITICAL CRIMES.

3. AT SAME TIME, ISTIQLAL DAILY AL ALAM OF AUG 29 REPORTED RELEASE OF A GROUP OF UNFP POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD SINCE MARCH 1973, AMONG THEM MOHAMED EL YAZGHI, OMAR BENJELLOUN, TAWFIQ IDRISI, AND MUSTAPHA EL KARCHAOUI. THESE MEN WERE AMONG THE 80 OR SO PERSONS WHOM THE KENITRA MILITARY TRIBUNAL HAD ACQUITTED IN AUGUST BUT WHO WERE IMMEDIATELY REARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH NEW CRIMES. SOME 40 OF THE 80 HAD BEEN QUIETLY RELEASED DURING SPRING BUT NONE HAD BEEN FREED SINCE MAY. EL YAZGHI, WHO HAD BEEN GRIEVOUSLY WOUNDED BY A LETTER BOMB IN MARCH 1973, HAD BEEN CONFINED IN A RABAT HOSPITAL AND LATER IN RESORT TOWN OF IFRANE FOR LAST MONTHS OF HIS CAPTIVITY. ISTIQLAL SOURCE JUST CITED PUT TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS RELEASED AT SEVEN AND ADDED THAT RELEASES WERE "PROVISIONAL."

4. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION IN PAST FEW DAYS THAT KING HAD DECIDED TO RESOLVE POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE, BY RELEASING DETAINEES AND CALLING OFF A NUMBER OF POLITICAL TRIALS WHICH WERE BEING PREPARED. ACCORDING ISTIQLAL SOURCE, THE SEVEN EXECUTIONS AND SEVEN RELEASES ARE THE ONLY ACTIVITY WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE SO FAR. THE NEW POLITICAL TRIALS BEING PREPARED REMAIN, AS THEY HAVE SINCE MAY, IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

5. FOR FBIS LONDON: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TRANSCRIPTS OF ANY BROADCASTS YOU HAVE MONITORED RELATING TO EXECUTIONS.
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